

pre Oct

Report of the Executive Secretary --October-- November 3, '19

the important events of the year as effecting the better relationship between the two races in our country, none stand out with greater possibilities and none than the Third Annual Conference of the National Urban League recently held at Detroit. As the programs point out, every phase of the Negroes' life was discussed, not however, apart from the life of his community. Gathered from many sections of the nation were many young men and women, unobtrusive and sincere, understanding thoroughly the danger of too radical and sudden social changes, and impatient with the steady, but sure racial progress that is being made. Out of the conference three important things were arrived at, as ^{being} ~~being~~ of the diminishing of the heretofore bitter and unreasonable race feeling amongst us; it, and of greatest moment:

The entrance of the Negro in industry.

About discussing it at length it is obvious that this gives him a chance to both employer and employee of the other race, seeing especially the common interest between himself and his fellow white workmen, and also give the opportunity for participation in the great (key) industries in which any people must share if they are ever going to reach any economic progress.

and: The growing sense on the part of the Negro, to evaluate correctly his own worth, and the development of a new race consciousness.

and: The unaffected and spontaneous willingness of the part of both peoples

Executive Sec'y was requested to express the sympathy of the

to appreciate their weaknesses and strengths, and to work in the end for the common good of all.

I think that we cannot too strongly emphasize the wisdom with which Negroes have seen and grasped their industrial chance and in the face of some reports as to industrial results, given by various secretaries at the conference, it strikes me that while we have done much good work here in opening places and finding extraordinary jobs, we have not concentrated enough of our efforts on that particular part of our program.

The following program was adopted by the National Conference;

As to our own work, here during the month the report is as follows:

Employment - There were 160 applicants, 40 men, 120 women, of whom 122 were referred, placed. Among the placements was a trained nurse, the third such placement made upon our recommendation since May, this nurse happening to be one of the few Negro nurses to serve with the Red Cross during the War, being stationed at Camp Grant, Ill. A stenographer, and engineer, and a boilermaker. It was with a great deal of difficulty that this last place was found but the applicant was finally placed in the boiler room of one of the R.R. (tell story) There is a growing need for the especially trained houseworker, and there is a changing attitude of mind on the part of the lady of the house toward her maids. The mentality of the so called servants place is disappearing slowly. The time will come when this type of worker will in a large way be the steward and keeper of the house, rather than the general house worker. I think therefore, that along with the encourage-

ment

Executive Sec'y was requested to express the sympathy of the

our men and women to enter in industry in larger numbers, and to make themselves skilled workers, there should be a certain attempt to train the girl who likes domestic work become a sort of skilled houseworker, such as will command a real wage and responsibility, but in turn to be sure that employer is actually getting efficiency for his outlay. Two other matters come very pressingly to us as affecting the Negroes working life in this community; first, our attitude toward organized labor. The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Ship Fitters and Helpers of America, an organization which constitutionally debars Negroes, yet which tried to pull them out in the strikes now in progress at the shipyards in this section; second, "I.W.W.ism".

- (1) The Labor organization; explain; read plan; What should the Negroes be advised.
- (2) I.W.W. among Negroes here; what the Negroes be advised.

Activity and co-operation - The Secretary has spoken before the Employment Negro Association in interest of the League and Negro workers, and also at the North Street Church. Co-operation has been carried on with many of the State, City, and private organizations as effecting Negro life.

Ongoing activities - The Girl Scouts have held four meetings. The Salika-Johnson Club four, and various other groups have gathered for special meetings, making the League to be a real center of Negro activity in the community. The importance of a Family Welfare Worker cannot be too strongly urged at this time. Winter's approach will complicate this situation. A case in point will ac-

Executive Sec'y was requested to express the sympathy of

Executive's report -4-

entuate this ~~shd~~ for a worker. (give case)

Other items to meet our consideration now are some of the suggestions offered at our Board of Mgrs meeting October 13.

First: That our fiscal year be changed to meet the calendar year.

Second: That a set of constitutions be printed, so as to be available for all members of the League, and that they include such changes as are found necessary in meeting our organization as it now stands.

Third: That a budget be adopted and an attempt be made to stage a campaign to ^{be} raised by the three Negro organizations of the city, viz: the Urban League, the Home for the Aged, and the Good Samaritan Orphanage.

Fourth: That a bulletin be issued covering the work done by the League since its organization and to be used as campaign literature, should the proposed plan be effected.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Ashley
Executive Secretary.

Executive Sec'y was requested to express the sympathy of the